

Summer 6-15-1997

ENG 3807-021: Victorian Literature

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English 3807-021: Victorian Literature
 MTWR 0800-1000, CH 229
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Summer 1997

Through attentive reading and discussion of three major Victorian literary areas (non-fictional prose, poetry, the novel) we will be learning about the Victorian age and its literature not only in terms of its distinctive identity, but also in terms of what we have inherited from it -- its popular economic theories, its mythologies of progress and mission, its spirit of reform, its faith, its skepticism, its diverse tastes, and perhaps above all its anomalies and contradictions. The objective of this course will be, through reading, writing and discussion, to make us more conversant with the literature of the period and to understand it not merely as a body of historical documents, but as something that continues to inform and shape our present culture.

TEXTS: Trilling, Lionel and Harold Bloom, eds. Victorian Prose and Poetry.
 Bronte, Emily. Wuthering Heights (Norton ed.)
 Bronte, Charlotte. Jane Eyre (Norton ed.)
 Dickens, Charles. Hard Times (Norton ed.)
 Hardy, Thomas. Jude the Obscure (Riverside ed.)
 Haggard, H. Rider. She (NAL/Dutton ed.)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Lively participation in class discussion.
2. Attentive reading. In order to effectively participate in the course, you must keep up with the assigned reading, completing it on schedule.
3. Response Writing. For each reading assignment you will hand in 1 1/2 typed pages of observations and questions pertaining to the assigned literature. I will draw upon these responses as an aid in generating class discussion. These will be graded on their clarity, depth and evidence of attentive and engaged reading.
4. Papers. You will write two papers in this course. The first paper (5-6pages) will focus on a specific passage of poetry or non-fictional prose. (Topic possibilities to be announced). The final paper (6-8 pages) will involve some research in regard to the cultural context of a specific work of your choice from the syllabus. You will be looking at what was going on socially, politically, and artistically in the Victorian world at the time of the work's publication, and you will be attempting to draw some conclusions about what this context does for understanding the literary work you have chosen. Research will in part involve looking at what Booth Library has in the way of British journals and magazines from the 19th century. (Further details forthcoming).

NOTE: Although it will not be graded, a brief oral presentation of the content of this final paper will be required. (See the course calendar).

5. You will be required to use the MLA style of documentation and citation. You are expected to consult the MLA Handbook for Writers of Reserach Papers (4th edition).

6. Exams. You will take a mid-term exam which will be a take-home essay exam. You will also take a final in-class exam which will be in two sections: 1. an objective section involving definition and identification questions; 2. an essay response section involving a choice of three topics.

7. Regular attendance. (See below)

8. You must complete all course requirements in order to pass the class.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance and active participation are required. According to the 1996-97 catalog,

Students are expected to attend class meetings as scheduled. When an absence does occur, the student is responsible for the material covered during the absence. When possible, the student should notify the instructor in advance of an anticipated absence.

Instructors will grant make-up privileges (when make-up is possible) to students for **properly verified absences due to illness, emergency, or participation in an official University activity**; and such absences will not militate against students in classes in which attendance is used directly in determining final grades. It is the student's responsibility to initiate plans for make-up work and to complete it promptly. If in the instructor's judgement the duration or number of absences renders make-up unfeasible, the instructor may contact the Vice President for Student Affairs and the Department Chairperson to determine an appropriate action. (57-58)

In addition, the 1996-97 catalog includes the following sentences regarding absences: "If a student establishes a record or pattern of absences of concern to the instructor, the instuctor may ask the Vice President for Student Affairs to make inquiries concerning the absences. The Vice President for Student Affairs also serves as the University contact person when catastrophic events result in extended student absences" (58).

Unless you have received my consent prior to your absence and you are able to provide me with documented evidence showing that your absence is legitimate and excusable, you are not allowed to make up tests or other graded in-class activities. A phone notification or an in-class personal notification is not considered an automatically legitimate excuse. Remember it is your responsibility to contact either your classmates or me to find out what you have missed and/or if there has been any change made on the original syllabus during your absence.

If you have three unexcused absences, you will not pass the course. This is roughly equivalent to 7 unexcused absences in a fifty-minute MWF class. After your second excused absence, you must come to see me to discuss your performance in the class. If you accumulate four or more excused absences, you should seriously consider dropping the class. Don't forget to sign your name on the attendance sheet that I will circulate at the beginning of each class period.

LATE PAPERS: Papers must be turned in on time unless you have received my prior consent. I will accept late papers also in cases of severe illness, official university activity and other urgent reasons upon presentation of a valid excuse issued by a proper authority.

GRADES: The grades for the two papers, two exams, general participation, and the averaged grade for all response writings will all count equally and will be averaged to arrive at the final course grade.

Grading is on a 4.0 scale as follows:

A: 4.0-3.6; B: 3.5-2.5; C: 2.4-1.4; D: 1.3-0.1; F: 0.0

Grading of papers will be based on the "Standards for Evaluating Themes at Eastern Illinois University" attached to this syllabus.

DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM: "Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism -- 'The appropriation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work' (Random House Dictionary of the English Language) -- has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office."

DISABILITIES: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

COURSE CALENDAR

This syllabus may need to be modified at times. If you are not in class, make sure you find out if there has been any change.

- M June 9 Introduction to the course. General background. Twentieth Century notions of things "Victorian."
- T June 10 Thomas Carlyle: Three chapters from Sartor Resartus, 1833-34 (18-38); Three chapters from Past and Present, 1843 (53-71)
(All page numbers for poetry and prose refer to the Trilling and Bloom text)
- W June 11 John Stuart Mill: "A Crisis in My Mental History" from Autobiography, 1861 (99-108); "What Is Poetry?" 1833 (76-83)
- TH June 12 John Ruskin: "Of the Real Nature of Greatness of Style," from Modern Painters, vol. II, 1856 (158-174); "The Roots of Honour," from Unto This Last, 1860 (189-200)
- M June 16 Pre-Raphaelites and others (Poetry and prose selections to be announced)
- T June 17 Matthew Arnold: "First Edition of Poems, Preface," 1853 (205-215)
Matthew Arnold: "The Buried Life" (595); "Stanzas from the Grande Chartreuse" (597); "The Scholar Gypsy" (603)
- W June 18 Alfred, Lord Tennyson: "Mariana" (396); "The Kraken" (398); "The Lotos-Eaters" (406); "St. Simeon Stylites" (411); "Ulysses" (416)
In Memoriam A.H.H. Prologue, I, XXXI, XXXIV, XXXV, L, LIV, LV, LVI, CXVIII, CXX, CXXIII, Epilogue. (440-466)
FIRST PAPER DUE
- TH June 19 Robert Browning: "My Last Duchess" (502); "The Bishop Orders His Tomb at Saint Praxed's Church" (503); "Fra Lippo Lippi" (509); "Andrea del Sarto" (542)
Mid-term take home exam handed out.
Return completed exam by Monday, June 23.
- M June 23 Emily Bronte: Wuthering Heights
T June 24
- W June 25 Charlotte Bronte: Jane Eyre
TH June 26

<u>M June 30</u>	Charles Dickens: <u>Hard Times</u>
<u>T July 1</u>	
<u>W July 2</u>	Thomas Hardy: <u>Jude the Obscure</u>
<u>M July 7</u>	
<u>T July 8</u>	
<u>W July 9</u>	H. Rider Haggard: <u>She</u>
<u>TH July 10</u>	Oral Presentations of Final Papers
<u>M July 14</u>	General overview, discussion and conclusion to course <u>FINAL PAPER DUE</u>